



**INTEGRATED VEHICLE  
HEALTH MANAGEMENT**



# High Temperature Wireless Sensor Systems

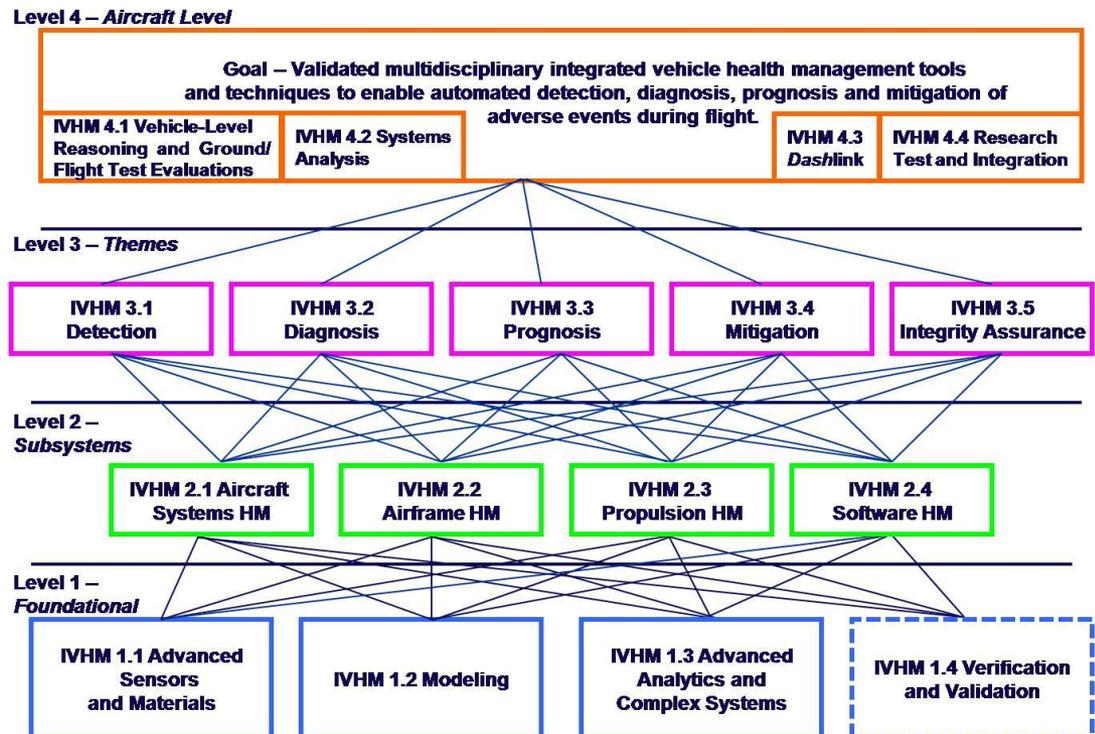
**Gary W. Hunter**

Aviation Safety Program Technical Conference  
November 17-19, 2009  
Washington D.C.



# Outline

- Problem Statement
- Background
- IVHM milestones being addressed
- Approach
- Results
- Conclusions
- Future Plans



# HARSH ENVIRONMENT ELECTRONICS AND SENSORS APPLICATIONS

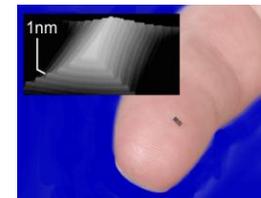


- **NEEDS:**

- OPERATION IN HARSH ENVIRONMENTS
- RANGE OF PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL MEASUREMENTS
- INCREASE DURABILITY, DECREASE THERMAL SHIELDING, IMPROVE IN-SITU OPERATION



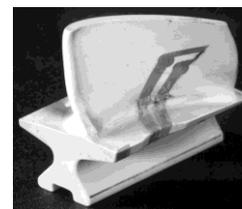
1998 R&D 100 Award



2004 R&D 100 Award

- **RESPONSE: UNIQUE RANGE OF HARSH ENVIRONMENT TECHNOLOGY AND CAPABILITIES**

- STANDARD 500C OPERATION BY MULTIPLE SYSTEMS
- TEMPERATURE, PRESSURE, CHEMICAL SPECIES, WIND AVAILABLE
- HIGH TEMPERATURE ELECTRONICS TO MAKE SMART SYSTEMS



1995 R&D 100 Award



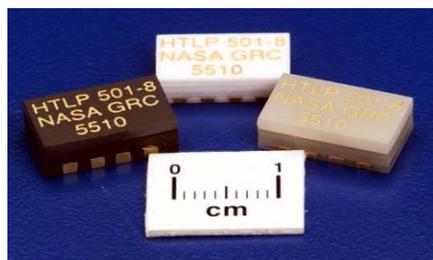
1991 R&D 100 Award

- **ENABLE EXPANDED MISSION PARAMETERS/IN-SITU MEASUREMENTS**

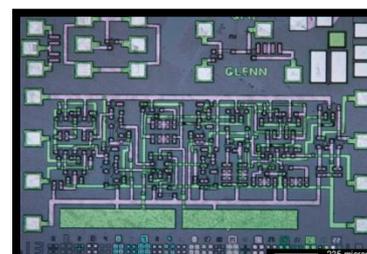
**Range of Physical and Chemical Sensors for Harsh Environments**



**Harsh Environment Packaging**



**High Temperature Signal Processing and Wireless**



**Long Term: High Temperature "Lick and Stick" Systems**



# High Temperature Sensors, Electronics, And Communications



## Objective:

- High Temperature Wireless Telemetry, Distributed Electronics Over A Broad Operating Range

## Technical Approach:

- Integration of sensor technology with high temperature wireless communications and energy harvesting to enable a smart systems operable at high temperatures.
  - High-temperature wireless communications based on SiC electronics and rugged RF passive components
  - Energy harvesting systems focusing on thermo-electric materials for generation of power for remote sensors.

## Technical Challenges:

- Development Of Reliable High Temperature
- Telemetry Electronics, Power Sources
- Remote Communication Electronics, And Packaging

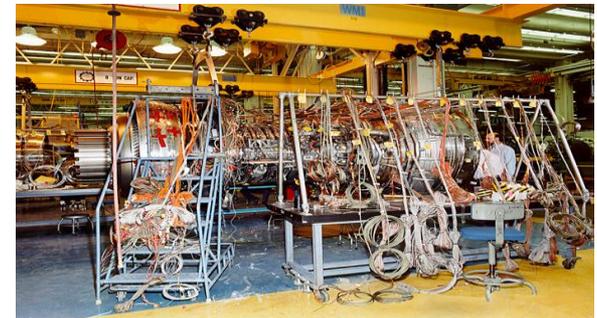
## Goals Supported:

- Enhance Performance
- Significantly Reduce Cost

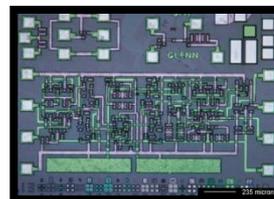
**Provide Data Transfer In Harsh Environments  
Improving Reliability And Enabling New  
Capabilities**

## Provide a New Generation of Sensor Technology

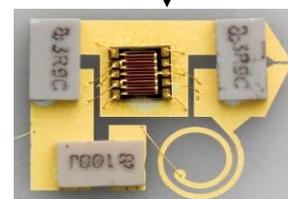
Significant wiring exists with present sensor systems



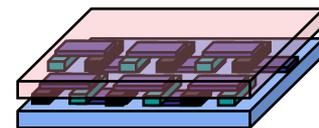
## Allow Sensor Implementation by Eliminating Wires



World Record High Temperature Electronics Device Operation



High Temperature RF Components



Energy Harvesting Thin Film Thermoelectrics

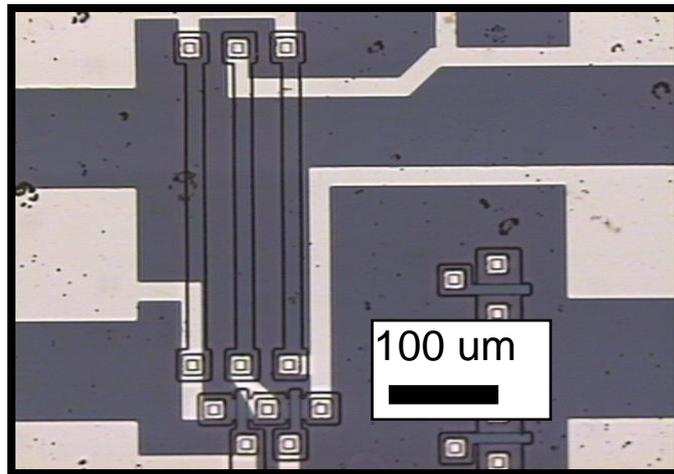
# NASA Glenn Silicon Carbide Differential Amplifier

World's First Semiconductor IC to Surpass  
5000 Hours of Electrical Operation at 500 °C

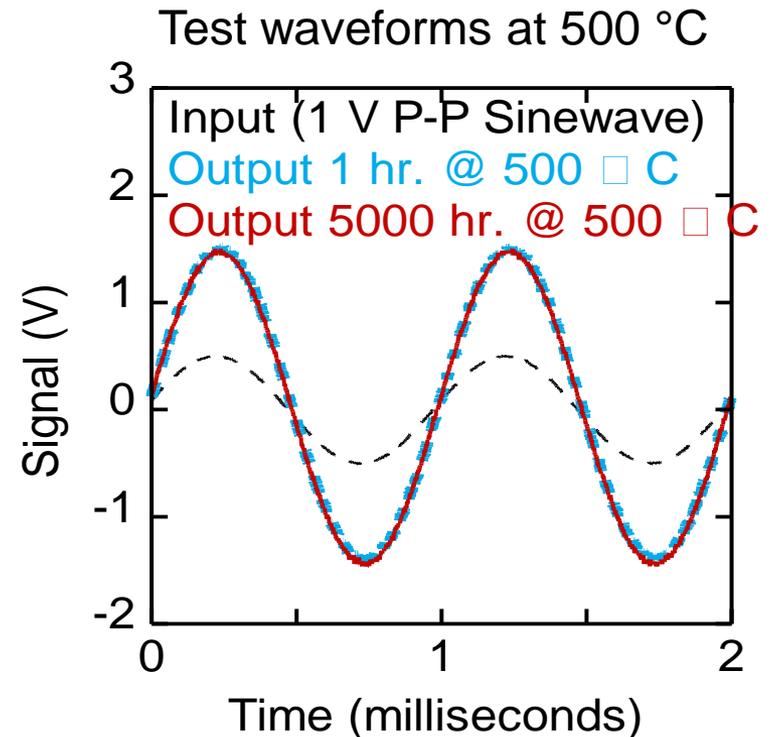


Demonstrates CRITICAL ability to interconnect transistors and other components (resistors) in a small area on a single SiC chip to form useful integrated circuits that are durable at 500 °C.

Optical micrograph of demonstration amplifier circuit before packaging



2 transistors and 3 resistors  
integrated into less than half a  
square millimeter.  
Single-metal level interconnect.



Less than 5% change in  
operating characteristics during  
5000 hours of 500 °C operation.

# RELEVANT IVHM MILESTONES

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## Milestone 2.3.1.1

**Demonstrate high-temperature wireless sensing system for the detection of propulsion system anomalies.**

- i) Breadboard demonstration of power scavenging at 300°C with 3V voltage, pressure sensor at 300°C, and a wireless circuit with RF communication at 300°C over 1m distance. (FY09Q4)**

**Due Date: 9/30/2009**

- ii) Demonstrate an integrated self-powered wireless sensor system at 500°C with data transmission over 1 m distance minimum and operational life of at least 1 hr. (FY11Q2)**

**Due Date: 3/30/2011**

**Glenn Beheim, Liangyu Chen, Fred Dynys, Jennifer Jordan, Roger Meredith, Elizabeth McQuaid, Philip Neudeck, George Ponchak, Maximilian Scardelletti, Nick Varaljay**



# RELEVANT IVHM MILESTONES

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## Milestone 1.1.1.3

**Demonstrate power harvesting at high temperatures to enable remote sensing technologies.**

**Fred Dynys**

## Milestone 1.1.1.6

**Demonstrate health monitoring nanostructured sensors for the monitoring of propulsion emissions**

**Gary W. Hunter, Jennifer C. Xu, Laura J. Evans, Azlin Biaggi-Labiosa  
NASA Glenn Research Center  
Cleveland, OH 44135**

**Randy L. Vander Wal, Gordon M. Berger, and Michael J. Kulis  
USRA at NASA Glenn Research Center  
Cleveland, OH 44135**



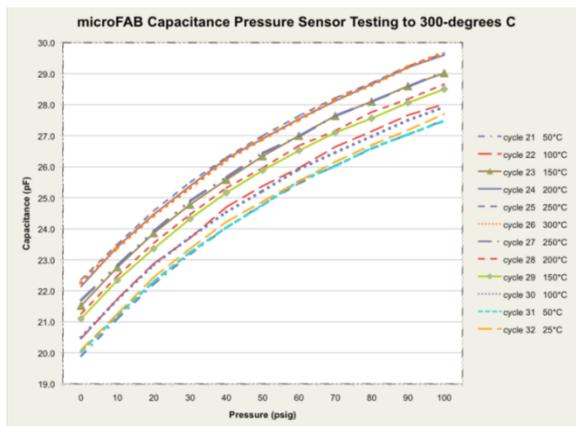
# MILESTONE APPROACH

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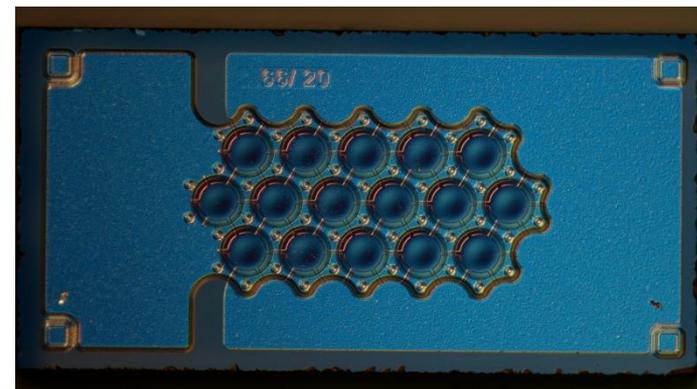
- **PREPARE FOR 500°C BY MAKING A SYSTEM WORK AT 300°C. THIS MILESTONE IS A TRIAL AND PROVING GROUND FOR:**
  - **SYSTEM APPROACHES AND INTEGRATION NEEDED FOR 500° C OPERATION**
  - **CHARACTERIZATION AND BENCHMARKING OF OPERATIONAL SENSOR SYSTEMS OPERABLE AT 300°C**
  - **IDENTIFY TECHNOLOGY CONCENTRATION AREAS WHICH WILL BE NEEDED FOR 500°C OPERATION**
- **OVERALL APPROACH IS TO USE EXISTING TECHNOLOGIES AT 300°C IF VIABLE**
  - **DEVELOP WHAT IS NEEDED FOR THE MILESTONE/LEVERAGE THE REST**
- **MILESTONE BRINGS TOGETHER MULTIPLE FIELDS OF EXPERTISE IN HIGH TEMPERATURE TECHNOLOGY**
- **NECESSARY COMPONENTS FOR MILESTONE DEMONSTRATION**
  - **PRESSURE SENSOR**
  - **POWER SUPPLY**
  - **SiC CIRCUITY**
  - **WIRELESS CIRCUIT**
  - **SYSTEM INTEGRATION**
  - **TESTING SYSTEM**

# CAPACITIVE PRESSURE SENSOR

- **CAPACITIVE SENSOR SYSTEMS HAVE SIGNIFICANT ADVANTAGES FOR WIRELESS CIRCUITS**
  - **IN AN OSCILLATING CIRCUIT, CAPACITIVE CHANGES MORE READILY AFFECT RESONANT FREQUENCY**
- **WHILE NASA GRC HAS A LONG STANDING EFFORT IN PRESSURE SENSORS BASED ON RESISTANCE CHANGES, CAPACITIVE SENSOR DEVELOPMENT IS STILL AT AN EARLY STAGE**
- **COMMERCIAL CAPACITIVE PRESSURE SENSOR CHOSEN FOR THIS DEMONSTRATION**
  - **MAXIMUM OPERATING TEMPERATURE: 300°C**
  - **IN-HOUSE CHARACTERIZATION PERFORMED TO VERIFY SENSOR OPERATION**
  - **IN-HOUSE PACKAGING TECHNIQUES USED TO PREPARE SENSOR FOR SYSTEM DEMONSTRATION**



Capacitance versus Pressure plot of the microFAB Pressure sensor in Characterization Testing

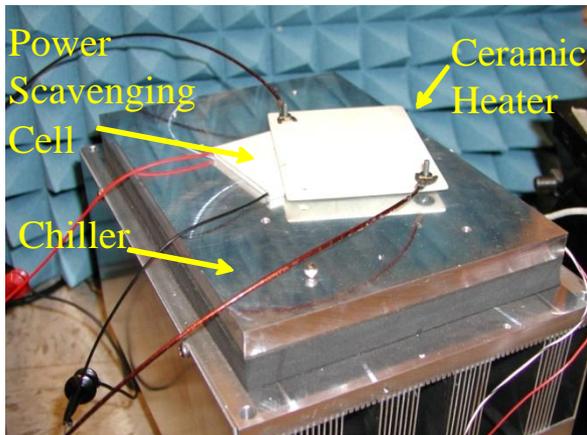


Close up view of the Capacitive Pressure Sensor. Shown are sixteen 60-micron diaphragms.

# POWER SCAVENGING



- **COMMERCIAL THERMAL ELECTRIC POWER SUPPLIES EXIST WHICH OPERATE FOR LIMITED TIMES AT 300°C**
  - **CHOOSE CUSTOM THERMOELECTRICS (TE) SYSTEM TO DEMONSTRATE POWER SCAVENGING APPROACH**
  - **A THERMOELECTRIC APPROACH, BUT USING MATERIALS OPERATIONAL AT LOWER TEMPERATURES**
  - **UNIT ENCAPSULATED TO DECREASE DEGRADATION**
- **EACH UNIT PROVIDES LIMITED VOLTAGE; SERIES CONNECTION OF UNITS NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE 3 V AND ABOVE**
- **IN ORDER TO MAXIMIZE VOLTAGE OUTPUT, THE HOT SIDE IS EXPOSED TO 300°C WHILE THE OTHER SIDE OF THE UNIT IS COOLED WITH THE HEATSINK**



Commercial thermoelectric power unit on hotplate

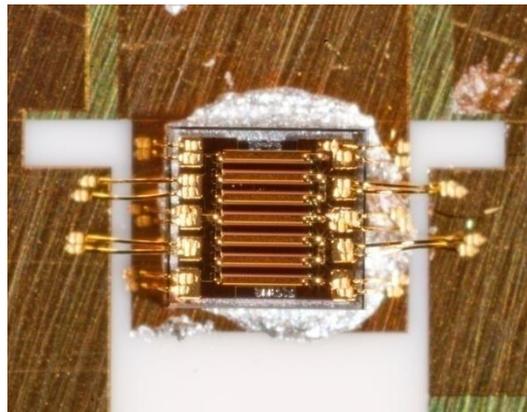


Complete thermoelectric power system 10

# SiC HIGH TEMPERATURE CIRCUITRY

- MESFET IS ONE APPROACH TO PROVIDE HIGHER FREQUENCY OPERATION
- A CREE MESFET WAS CHOSEN AS THE PRIME SiC CIRCUIT APPROACH
  - ALLOWED WIDEST FREQUENCY RANGE IN WIRELESS CIRCUIT DESIGN AND OPERATION
  - LIMITED IN DURABILITY/APPLICABILITY AT HIGHER TEMPERATURES
- CHARACTERIZED CREE SiC MESFET TRANSISTOR TO 400°C.
- EXISTING NASA GRC CIRCUITS HAVE SHOWN THE WORLD RECORD DURABILITY BUT WOULD OPERATE IN A LOWER AND LIMITED FREQUENCY RANGE (ORDER OF MHz OR LESS)
  - WIDER FREQUENCY RANGED CIRCUITS BEING DESIGNED AND FABRICATED FOR 2011 MILESTONE
  - LOWER FREQUENCY CIRCUIT ASSEMBLED WITH NASA GRC LONG-LIVED PARTS ASSEMBLED AND DEMONSTRATED AT 500°C (COMMERCIAL CAPACITIVE PRESSURE SENSOR LOCATED OUTSIDE OF OVEN)

Cree MESFET CRF24010D





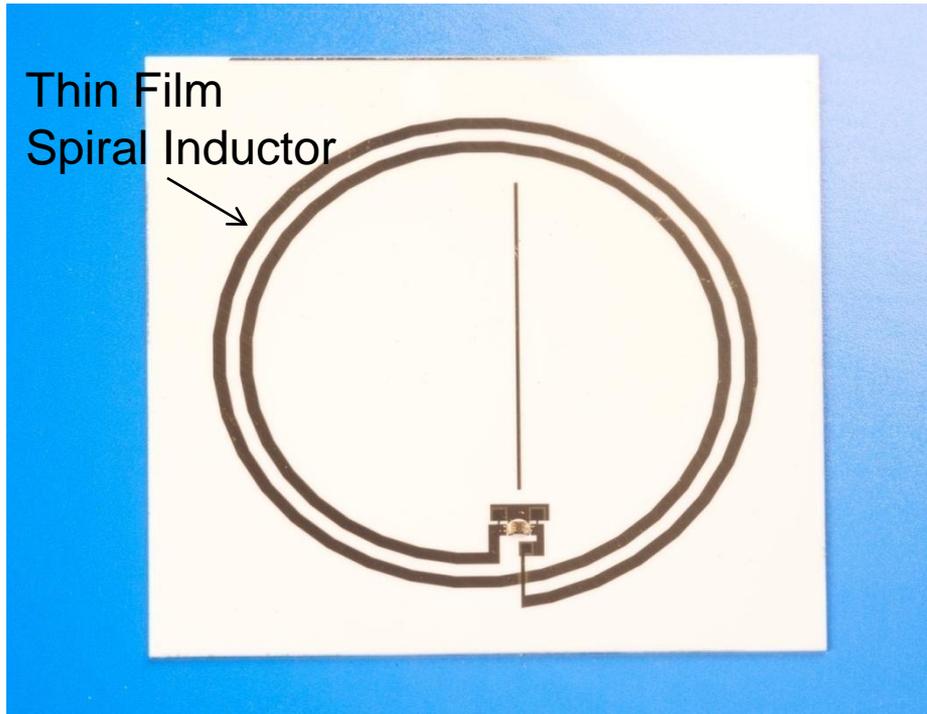
# WIRELESS CIRCUIT

- PREVIOUS WORK AND CIRCUIT DESIGNS ARE INSUFFICIENT TO MEET THIS MILESTONE/TARGETED SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT NECESSARY
- SIGNIFICANT ADVANCEMENTS MADE
  - DEVELOPED AND CHARACTERIZED THIN FILM COMPONENTS (MIM CAPACITORS AND THIN FILM SPIRAL INDUCTORS) TO 400°C
  - DEVELOPED AND CHARACTERIZED PLANAR ANTENNAS TO 400°C
  - DEVELOPED AND CHARACTERIZED OSCILLATORS OPERATING AT 30, 100, 800, AND 1000 MHZ
    - OPERATED 800 AND 1000 MHZ OSCILLATORS TO 270°C
    - OPERATED 30 AND 100 MHZ OSCILLATORS TO 470°C
  - DEVELOPED AND CHARACTERIZED TRANSMISSION LINES ON BOTH SAPPHIRE AND ALUMINA SUBSTRATES TO 400°C
  - DESIGNED MINIATURE ANTENNAS UTILIZING CAPACITIVE LOADING TECHNIQUES ON FOLDED SLOT ANTENNAS TO REDUCE OVERALL SIZE OF THE WIRELESS PRESSURE SENSOR.
  - DEVELOPED THIN FILM PECVD SIC PACKAGING TECHNOLOGY FOR HIGH TEMPERATURE ELECTRONICS AND HARSH ENVIRONMENTS

***IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT EACH OF THESE ARE CONSIDERED WORLD FIRSTS. NOTABLE SYSTEM INTEGRATION USING THIN FILM APPROACHES***

***ACTIVITIES IN RED CONSIDERED PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT AND FOUNDATIONAL FOR 500° C OPERATION***

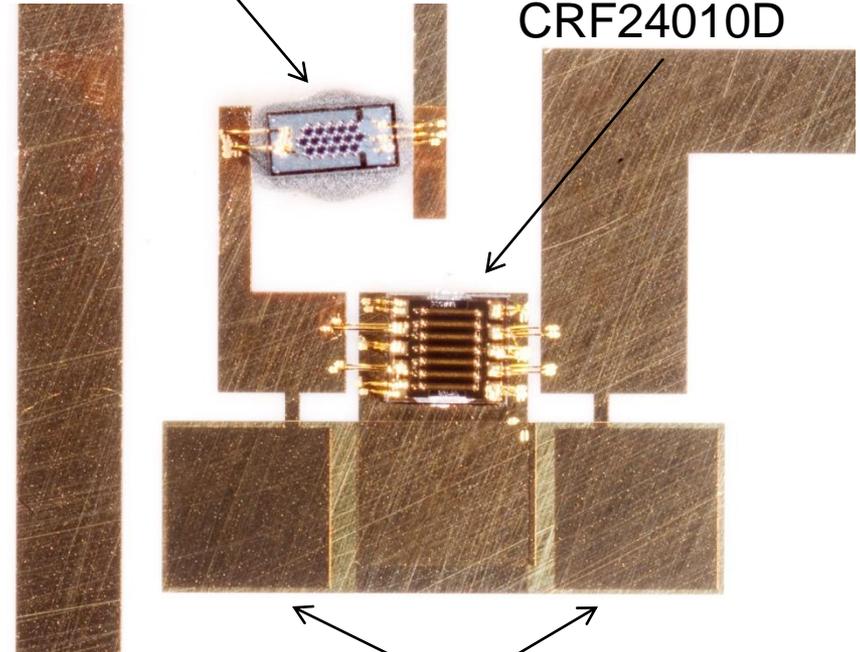
# WIRELESS CIRCUIT



- 100 MHz Wireless Pressure Sensor System

MicroFab Capacitive  
Pressure Sensor

Cree MESFET  
CRF24010D



MIM Capacitors

- Close up of MESFET, capacitive pressure sensor, and MIM capacitors from adjacent photo.

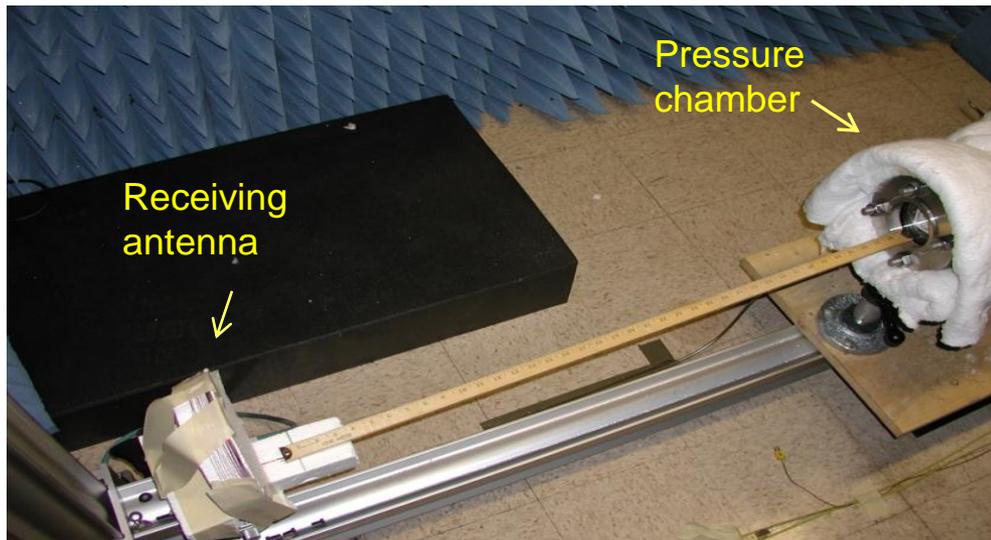
# SYSTEM INTEGRATION AND TESTING



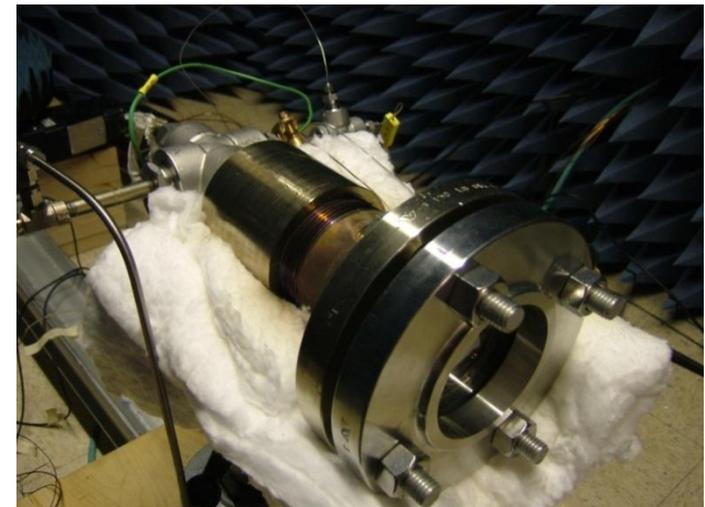
- DESIGNED HIGH TEMPERATURE PRESSURE VESSEL WHICH ALLOWED WIRELESS SENSOR TO TRANSMIT OVER A 1 METER DISTANCE TO RECEIVING ANTENNA WHILE UNDER VARIOUS PRESSURES AND TEMPERATURE RANGES FROM 25°C TO 300°C.



Circuit installed inside chamber



High temperature/pressure measurement system.

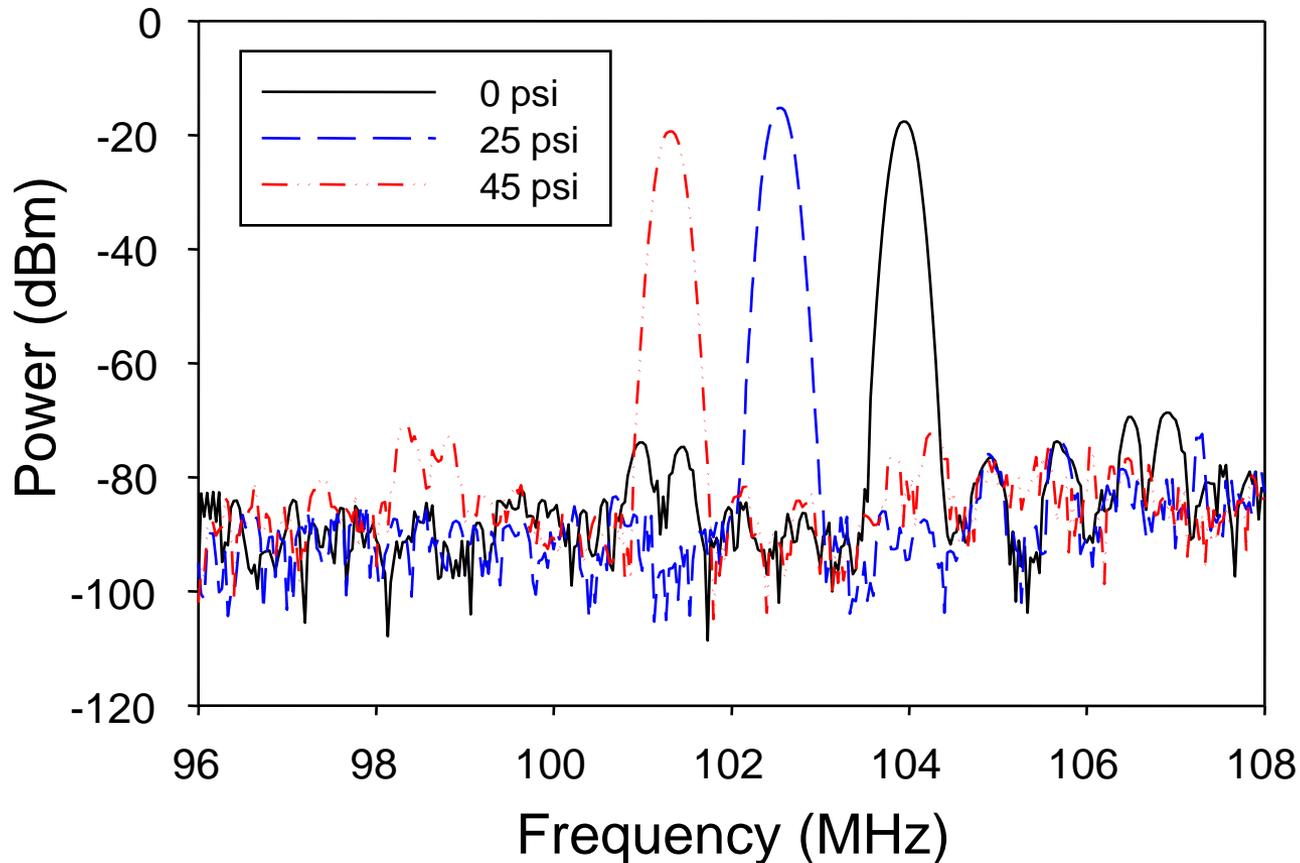


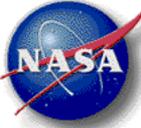
High temperature/pressure test vessel



# TESTING RESULTS

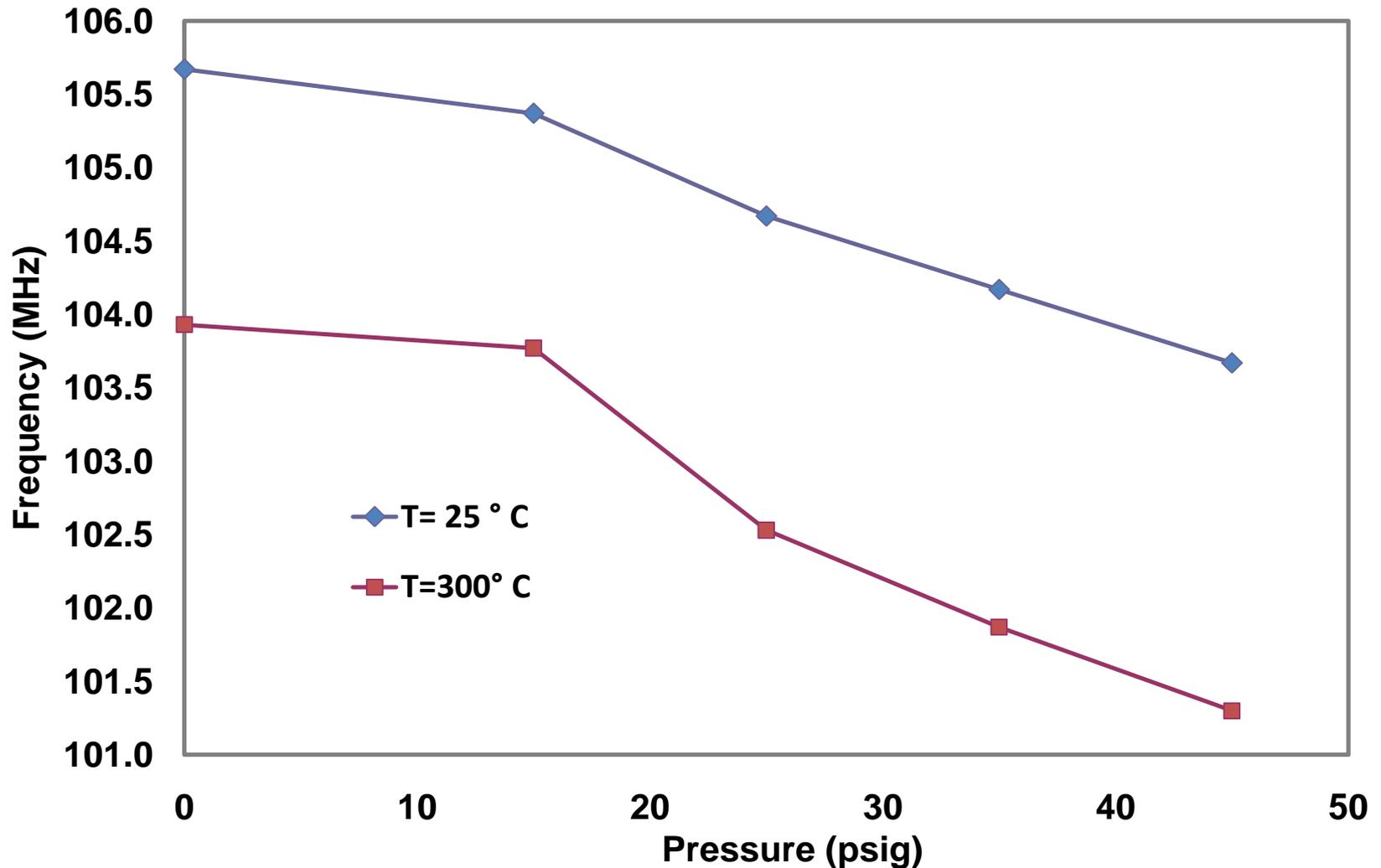
100 MHz Wireless Pressure Sensor at 300°C  
with Power Scavenging of 5.70 V





# TESTING RESULTS

100 MHz Wireless Pressure Sensor  
with Power Scavenging at 5.70 V

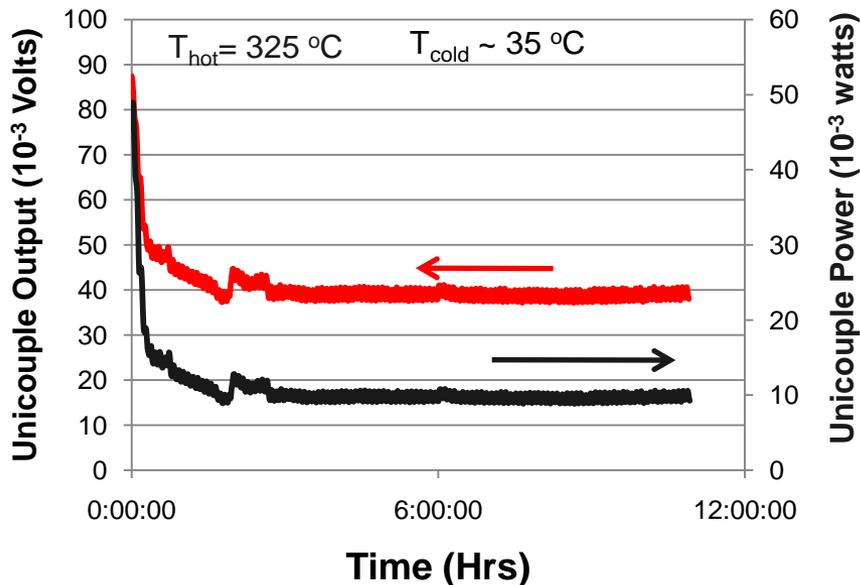


# COMMERCIAL TE MODULE

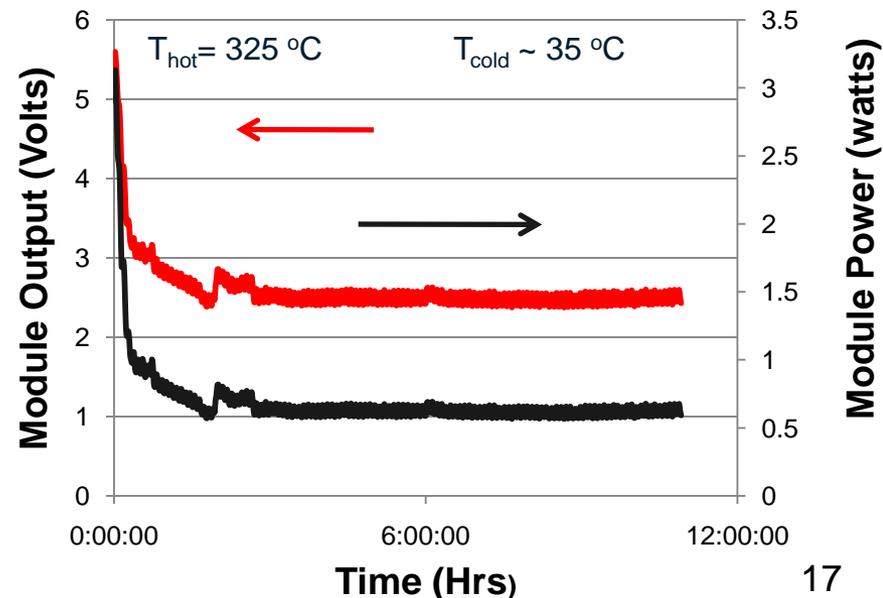


- THERE ARE NO COMMERCIAL TE MODULES THAT CAN SUSTAIN OPERATION ABOVE 250 °C IN AIR.
  - OXIDATION OF TE MATERIAL MAJOR FACTOR IN HIGH TEMPERATURE DEGRADATION
  - SEALING OF MATERIAL SIMPLY NOT ENOUGH FOR HIGH TEMPERATURE OPERATION/THERMAL CYCLING
- TESTING OF COMMERCIAL TE MODULE AT 325°C SHOWS RAPID DETERIORATION IN 1 HR.
  - COMPLETE UNIT HAS NEAR 2.5V/0.6W AFTER DEGRADATION
  - EACH UNICOUPLE 40mV/10mW AFTER DEGRADATION
- ANOTHER APPROACH IS NEEDED FOR 500°C OPERATION

### Commercial TE Module



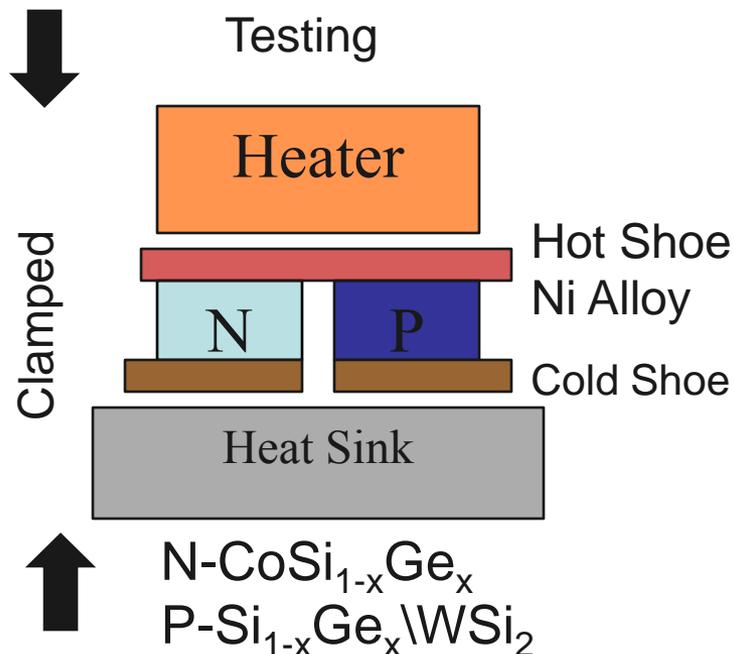
### Commercial TE Module



# BULK THERMOELECTRICS FOR 500°C OPERATION



- A PN BULK TE MATERIAL COMBINATION WAS CHOSEN:  
P-Si<sub>1-x</sub>Ge<sub>x</sub>W<sub>2</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>  
N-CoSi<sub>1-x</sub>Ge<sub>x</sub>
- ALTHOUGH BULK MATERIAL, THIS REFERS TO MATERIAL THICKNESS
  - NOT A THIN FILM
  - UNICOUPLE SIZE CAN BE SMALL E.G. COMMERCIAL UNIT
- TESTED IN A CLAMPED SYSTEM BETWEEN A HEATER AND HEAT SINK
- TEST CONFIGURATION HAS LOSSES (ELECTRICAL, HEAT) AROUND 30%.



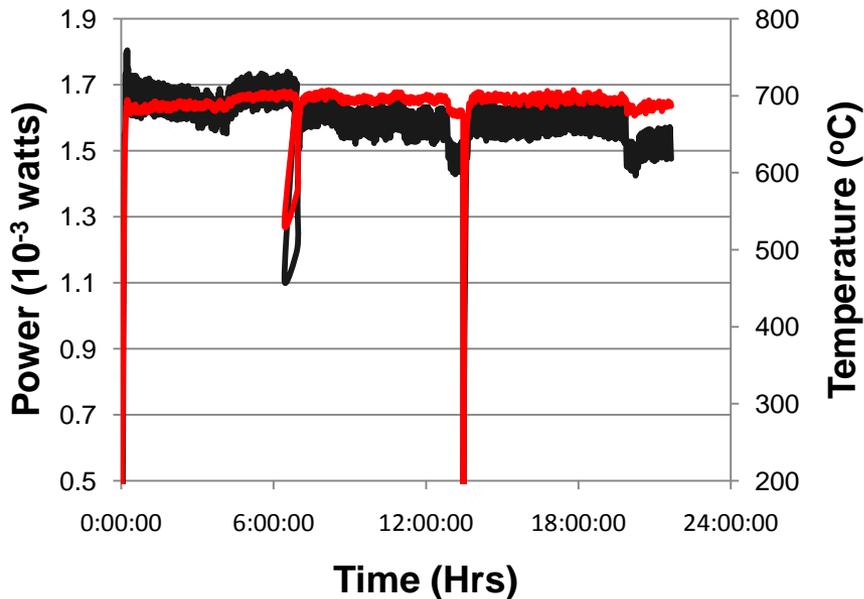
# BULK THERMOELECTRIC RESULTS

P type - $\text{Si}_{1-x}\text{Ge}_x/\text{WSi}_2$  and N type - $\text{CoSi}_{1-x}\text{Ge}_x$

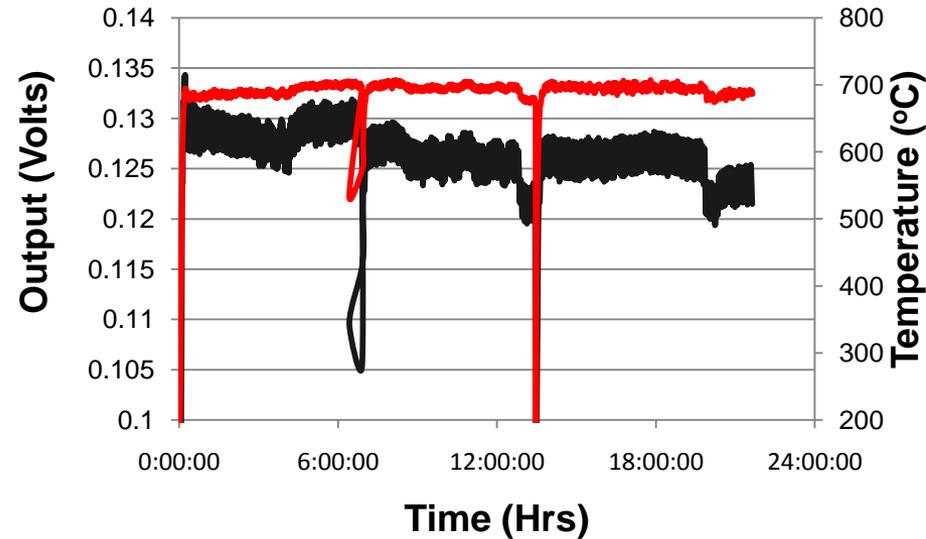


- SINGLE UNICOUPLE TESTED UP TO 700°C IN AIR.
- MATERIALS SHOW GOOD DURABILITY AFTER 22 HRS OF TESTING IN AIR
- THIS EXCEEDS THE MILESTONE OF 500°C FOR 10 HOURS
- HAVE IDENTIFIED A VIABLE MATERIAL FOR HIGH TEMPERATURE AIR ENVIRONEMENTS

Unicouple



Unicouple



- POWER DEMONSTRATED BY UNICOUPLE THERMOELECTRICS IS NEAR 1.6 mW AT 700°C.
- COMPARABLE TO COMMERCIAL UNIT AT 10mW BUT AT MORE THAN TWICE THE TEMPERATURE
- IF PACKAGED IN THE COMMERCIAL MODULE OF 64 UNICOUPLES, ~104 mW
- ACHIEIVING INCREASED POWER IS A MATTER OF PUTTING APPROPRIATE NUMBER OF UNICOUPLES IN SERIES

# MEMS Based Emission Sensors

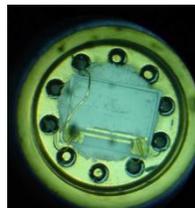


## NAVY FUNDED PROGRAM

- MULTISPECIES MICROSENSOR DETECTION IN SINGLE PACKAGE TO ALLOW MINIATURIZATION OF THE DETECTION APPARATUS
- QUANTIFY COMPOSITION OF CRITICAL CONSTITUENTS IN TURBINE ENGINE EXHAUST PRODUCTS, E.G., CO, CO<sub>2</sub>, NOX, O<sub>2</sub>, HC (UNBURNED HYDROCARBONS) AND H<sub>2</sub>
- IMPROVE ACCURACY IN MEASURING EXHAUST PRODUCTS
- USE TO TEST NEW ENGINES, NEW FUEL FORMULATIONS, AND EXPERIMENTAL ENGINE MATERIALS



Standard Multi-gas Analyzer



CO Sensor



SiC Hydrocarbon Sensor



CO<sub>2</sub> Sensor

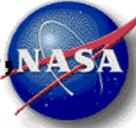
MEMS Emissions Sensors



Engine Teststand Testing

# Metal Oxide Nanostructures for Chemical Sensor Development

## Move From Nanocrystalline Materials To Nanostructure e.g. Tubes, Rods, Ribbons



- Develop Basic Tools To Enable Fabrication Of Repeatable Sensors Using Nanostructures
- Approach 3 Basic Problems In Applying Nanostructures As Chemical Sensors
- **Demonstrate Nanostructure Sensor System at 600°C for low concentrations of hydrocarbons**

### ► *Micro-Nano Contact Formation*

### ► *Nanomaterial Structure Control*

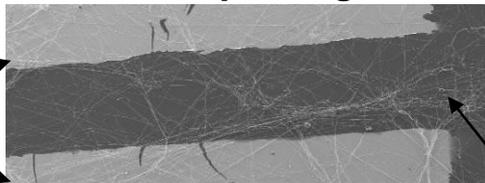
### ► *Range Of Nano Structured Oxides Available*

### IMPROVE NANOSTRUCTURE TO MICROELECTRODE CONTACTS

### NANOMATERIAL STRUCTURE CONTROL

#### *Electrospinning*

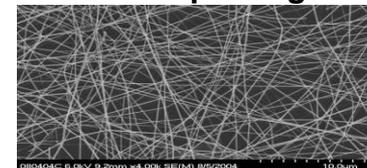
Pt Electrodes



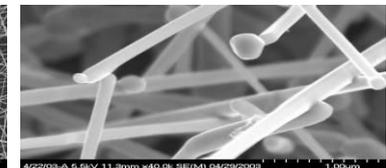
Bridging of electrospun SnO<sub>2</sub> nanofibers across electrodes.

SnO<sub>2</sub> Nanofibers

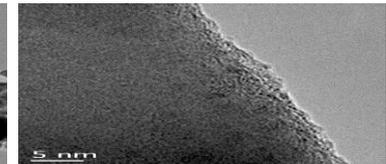
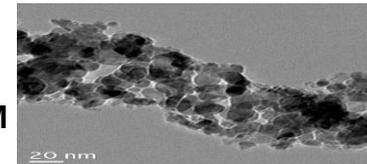
SEM



TEC

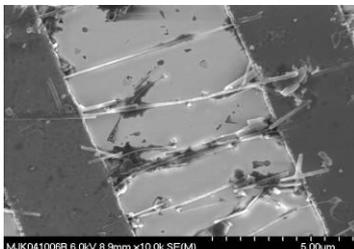


HRTEM



Different Processing of nanostructures produces different crystal structures

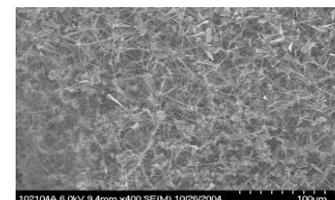
#### *Dielectrophoresis*



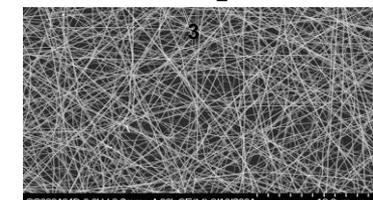
TiO<sub>2</sub> Nanorods aligned by dielectrophoresis across interdigitated electrode patterns.

### EXPAND RANGE OF NANOSTRUCTURES AVAILABLE

ZnO



In<sub>2</sub>O

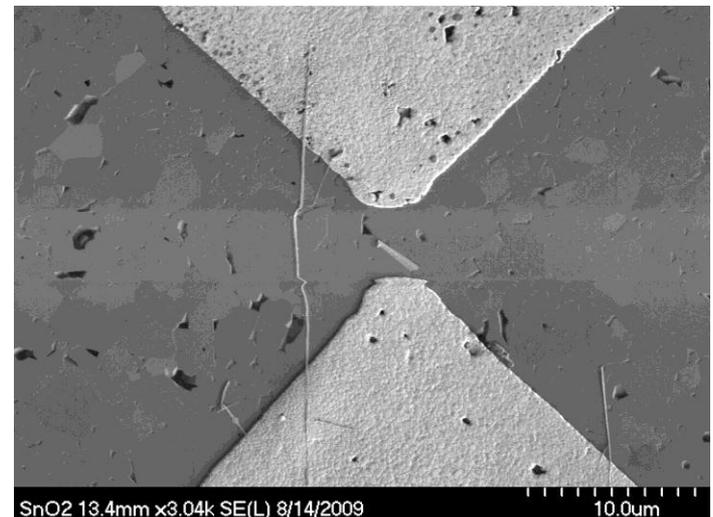
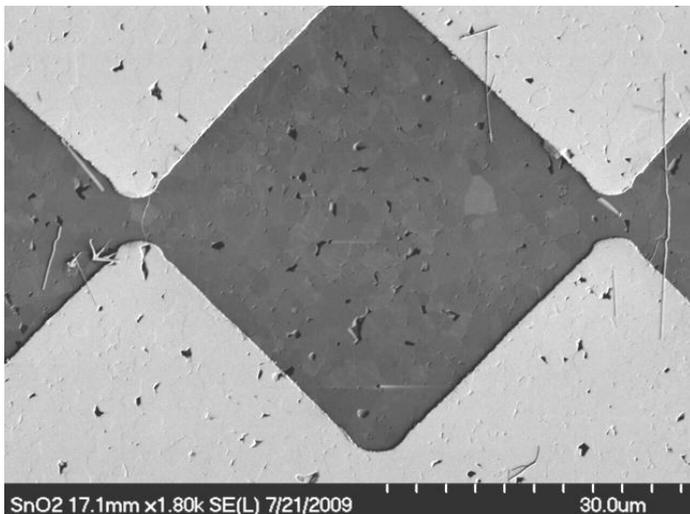
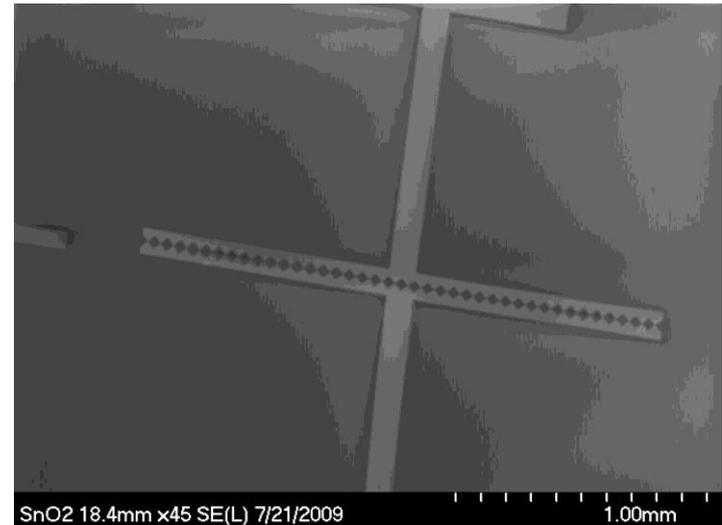


Multiple oxide nanostructured materials fabricated

# Sensor Structure



- $\text{SnO}_2$  nano rods fabricated by Thermal Evaporation Condensation
- Pt Saw tooth pattern on alumina
- 5 micron spacing between electrodes
- 7 nanowires bridging the electrodes
- Open Contacts (i.e. did not bury electrode contacts)

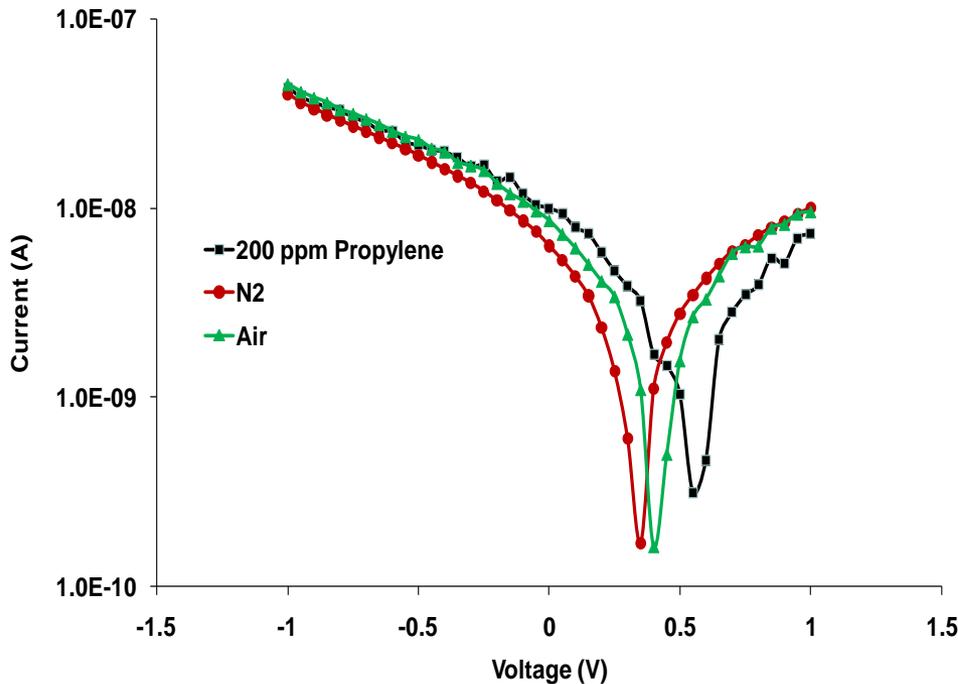


# SnO<sub>2</sub> Nanowires

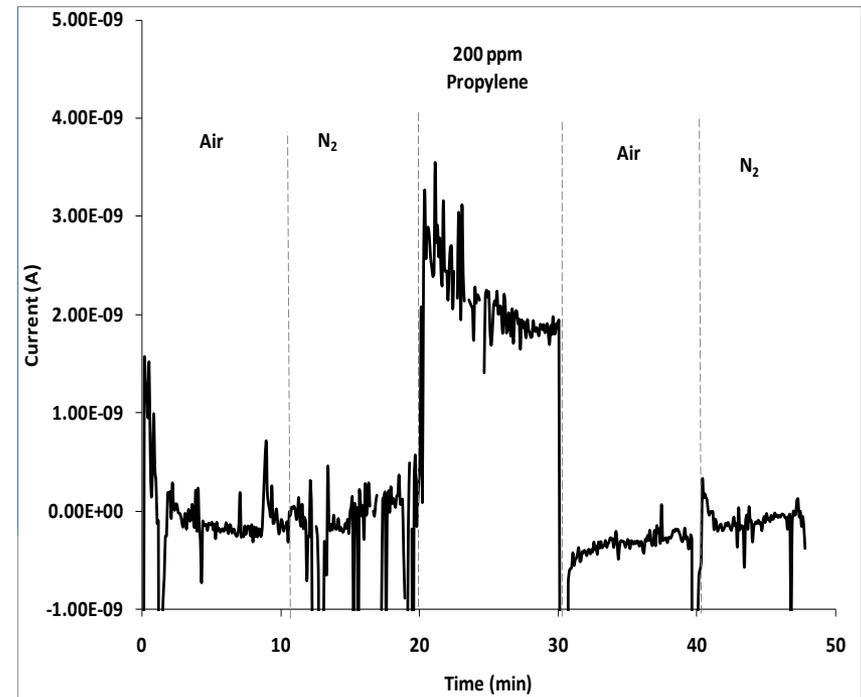
## T= 600°C, 75 hours



- CONTINUED SENSOR OPERATION AFTER 75 HOURS AT 600 °C WITH HIGH SENSITIVITY
- DETERMINED BY BOTH I-V CHARACTERISTICS AND RESPONSE OVER TIME
- BASIC SENSING MECHANISMS STILL NEED TO BE INVESTIGATED



CURRENT VS VOLTAGE MEASUREMENTS AT 600 °C IN AIR, NITROGEN, AND 200 ppm PROPLYENE



CURRENT VS TIME MEASUREMENTS AT 600°C IN AIR, NITROGEN, AND 200 ppm PROPLYENE



# SUMMARY

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- **BREADBOARD DEMONSTRATION OF POWER SCAVENGING AT 300°C WITH 3V VOLTAGE, PRESSURE SENSOR AT 300°C, AND A WIRELESS CIRCUIT WITH RF COMMUNICATION AT 300°C OVER 1M DISTANCE**
  - **WIRELESS PRESSURE SENSOR CONSISTS OF AN OSCILLATOR WITH MIM CAPACITORS, THIN FILM SPIRAL INDUCTORS, CREE SIC MESFET AND MICROFAB CAPACITIVE PRESSURE SENSOR AT 105 MHZ AND 300°C.**
  - **ESTABLISHED POWER SCAVENGING AT ROOM TEMPERATURE AND 300°C TO DEMONSTRATE SELF-POWERING CAPABILITY**
- **POWER SCAVENING 500°C MATERIALS INVESTIGATED/A VIABLE SILICON BASED BULK MATERIAL IDENTIFIED**
  - **TESTING SHOWED OPERATION AT 700°C IN OXIDIZING ENVIRONMENT FOR >22 HOURS WITH 1.6 mW FOR SINGLE UNICOUPLE**
- **FABRICATED A HIGH TEMPERATURE SENSOR BY ALIGNING TIN OXIDE NANOSTRUCTURES ON A MICROSENSOR PLATFORM**
  - **TESTING SHOWED 75 HOURS/600°C/200 PPM PROPYLENE DETECTION**



# SUMMARY

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- **THIS WORK HAS DEMONSTRATED 300°C CAPABILITIES AND BUILDS TOWARD 500°C OPERATION**
- **THESE ACTIVITIES ARE INTENDED TO LAY THE FOUNDATION FOR A REVOLUTION IN HIGH TEMPERATURE ENGINE MONITORING**
  - **HIGH TEMPERATURE “LICK AND STICK” SYSTEM COMPOSED OF SENSORS, SIGNAL CONDITIONING, WIRELESS COMMUNICATION, AND POWER**
  - **MAKE IT SMART AND SMALL, AND ABLE TO OPERATE IN HARSH ENVIRONMENTS**
  - **PLACE SENSORS WHERE THEY ARE NEEDED/ MINIMIZE BURDEN TO THE VEHICLE**
- **BASED ON WORLD-LEADING ADVANCEMENTS IN HIGH TEMPERATURE ELECTRONICS, COMMUNICATION, AND POWER**
  - **UNIQUE SET OF CAPABILITIES INTEGRATED INTO A SINGLE PROJECT**
  - **HIGH TEMPERATURE ELECTRONICS WORK PREVIOUSLY ONE OF NASA TOP TEN DISCOVERY STORIES (2007)**
  - **NANO 50 IN 2008 FOR CHEMICAL SENSOR DEVELOPMENT INVOLVING NANOMATERIALS**
  - **A NOTABLE NUMBER PUBLICATIONS AND INVITED TALKS**



# SUMMARY

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- **A RANGE OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER/DEMONSTRATION ACTIVITIES**
  - **PROPULSION INSTRUMENTATION WORKING GROUP TEAM EVALUATING WIRELESS FOR AERONAUTIC ENGINES**
    - **AERONAUTIC ENGINE COMPANY CONSORTIUM COMPOSED OF COMPANIES SUCH AS ROLLS ROYCE, HONEYWELL, WILLIAMS INTERNATIONAL, GE, P&W AND OTHERS**
  - **CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT OF SiC ELECTRONIC CIRCUITS**
    - **RECENT APPLICATION OF NASA TECHNIQUES TO NEW HIGH TEMPERATURE CIRCUIT DESIGN**
  - **MISSE 7 (MATERIALS INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION EXPERIMENT) SCHEDULED FOR 11-09**
    - **SIC DEMONSTRATION CIRCUIT TO BE DEPLOYED OUTSIDE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION**
  - **VENUS SEISMOMETER UNDER DEVELOPMENT BASED ON HIGH TEMPERATURE ELECTRONICS**
    - **POTENTIALLY REVOLUTIONIZE VENUS SCIENCE WITH PROOF-OF-CONCEPT SEISMIC MEASUREMENT INSTRUMENT INCLUDING WIRELESS**
  - **FUTURE TESTING PLANNED FOR HIGH TEMPERATURE MULTI-SPECIES GAS SENSOR ARRAY (NAVY FUNDED DEVELOPMENT)**
    - **MEMS BASED SYSTEM/NANO TECHNOLOGY VERSION BEING DEVELOPED**

# FUTURE PLANS

## HIGH TEMPERATURE ELECTRONICS, COMMUNICATION AND POWER

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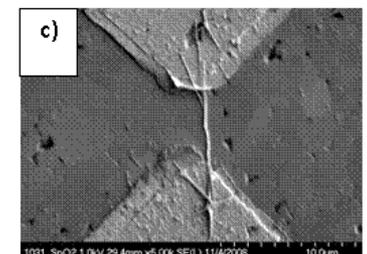
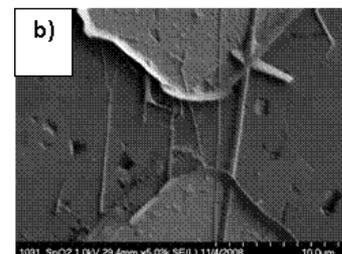
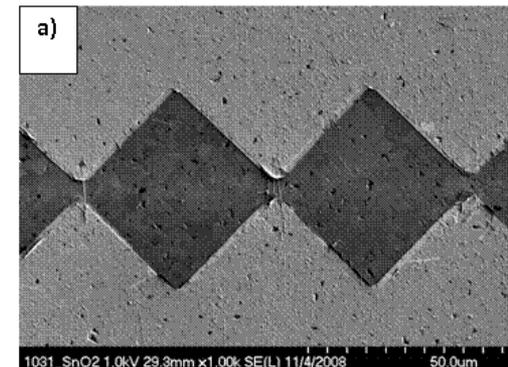
- **FUTURE WORK:**
  - **DEMONSTRATE AN INTEGRATED *SELF-POWERED* WIRELESS SENSOR SYSTEM AT 500°C WITH DATA TRANSMISSION OVER 1 M DISTANCE MINIMUM AND OPERATIONAL LIFE OF AT LEAST 1 HR. (FY11Q2)**
  - **DUE DATE: 3/30/2011**
  
- **LESSONS LEARNED/SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**
  - **PRESSURE SENSOR HAS SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON OVERALL CIRCUIT OPERATION. IN PARTICULAR, INTERNAL RESISTANCE CAN AFFECT OVERALL FREQUENCY OF OPERATION. NASA GRC IS WORKING ON A SIC CAPACITIVE PRESSURE SENSOR FOR 500°C.**
  - **SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN WIRELESS CIRCUIT DESIGN IMPLEMENTED DURING THE COURSE OF THIS WORK ENABLING GREATLY ENHANCE CIRCUIT OPERATION**
  - **INPUT TO BE USED FOR NEXT PROCESSING RUN OF SILICON CARBIDE ELECTRONICS PRODUCED AT NASA GRC**
  - **DEVELOP HIGH TEMPERATURE TE MODULE PROVIDING INCREASED POWER BY MATERIAL IMPROVEMENT AND OPTIMIZED DESIGN**
  - **POWER SCAVENGING AS THE SOLE SOURCE OF SYSTEM POWER IS PROBLEMATIC**

# FUTURE PLANS SENSOR DEVELOPMENT

- CHARACTERIZE, UNDERSTAND, AND CONTROL THE REACTION MECHANISMS ASSOCIATED WITH THESE OXIDE NANOSTRUCTURES
  - EARLY STAGES OF UNDERSTANDING SENSOR BEHAVIOR
  - LONGER-TERM AIM: DIODES, RESISTORS, ELECTROCHEMICAL CELLS
- USE MICROFABRICATION PROCESSING TECHNIQUES TO BETTER CONTROL SENSOR FORMATION
  - BURY ELECTRODE CONTACTS FOR IMPROVED REPEATABILITY/CONTROL OF STRUCTURE

- MILESTONE 2.3.1.3 DEMONSTRATE INCREASED ACCURACY OF FIBER OPTIC TEMPERATURE PROBE, MICROWAVE TIP CLEARANCE SENSOR AND EMISSIONS SENSOR SYSTEMS FOR OPERATION AT 600°C AND ABOVE IN AN OPERATING ENGINE ENVIRONMENT.

Buried Oxide Nanostructures





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# Backup Slides

# HIGH TEMPERATURE THERMOELECTRIC MATERIALS



- THERE ARE MULTIPLE APPROACHES TO POWER SCAVENING.
- ONE APPROACH IS THE USE OF THERMOELECTRIC MATERIALS (TE'S)
  - POWER GENERATED DUE TO THE DIFFERENTIAL OF TEMPERATURE ACROSS A MATERIAL
- THE AMOUNT OF POWER GENERATED IS A FUNCTION OF BOTH THE THERMAL GRADIENT AND THE MATERIAL
  - THE ZT OF THE MATERIAL AND THERMAL GRADIENT DETERMINES CONVERSION EFFICIENCY
- DESIRED PROPERTIES OF TE'S
  - HIGH SEEBECK COEFFICIENT (S)
  - HIGH ELECTRICAL CONDUCTIVITY ( $\sigma$ )
  - LOW THERMAL CONDUCTIVITY (K)

## Efficiency

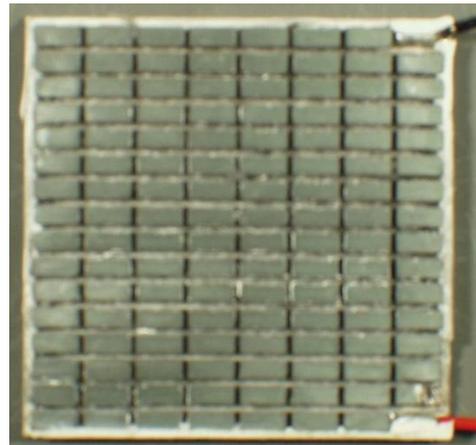
$$\eta_{\max} = \frac{\Delta T}{T_{\text{hot}}} \frac{\sqrt{1+ZT} - 1}{\sqrt{1+ZT} + \frac{T_{\text{cold}}}{T_{\text{hot}}}}$$

$$ZT = \frac{S^2 \sigma}{K} T$$

# COMMERCIAL TE MODULE



- **COMMERCIAL MODULES ARE FABRICATED BY CONNECTING MULTIPLE THERMOELECTRIC UNICOUPLES TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE DESIRED VOLTAGE AND POWER.**
- **CORE COMMERCIAL TE MODULE USED IN MILESTONE 2.3.1.1 CONTAINS 64 UNICOUPLES (PN JUNCTIONS)**
- **COMPLETE MODULE INVOLVES NOT ONLY UNICOUPLE TECHNOLOGY BUT ALSO A RANGE OF PACKAGING AND INTERCONNECT TECHNOLOGY**
- **STANDARD PRACTICE TO CONNECT MODULES IN SERIES FOR INCREASED POWER**
  - **SOME INEFFICIENCIES IN INTERCONNECTIONS (~10-30%)**
  - **TWO MODULES ARE REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE 3 VOLT MILESTONE.**

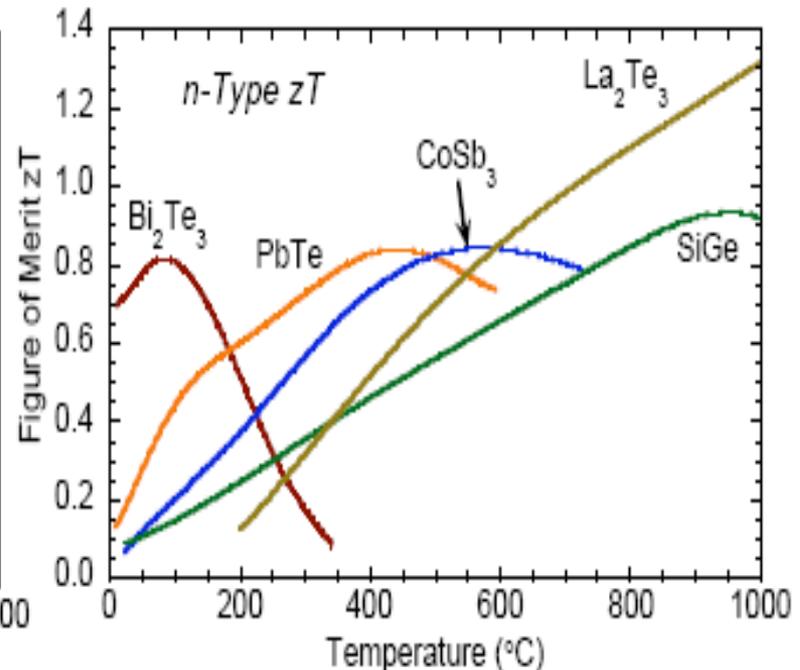
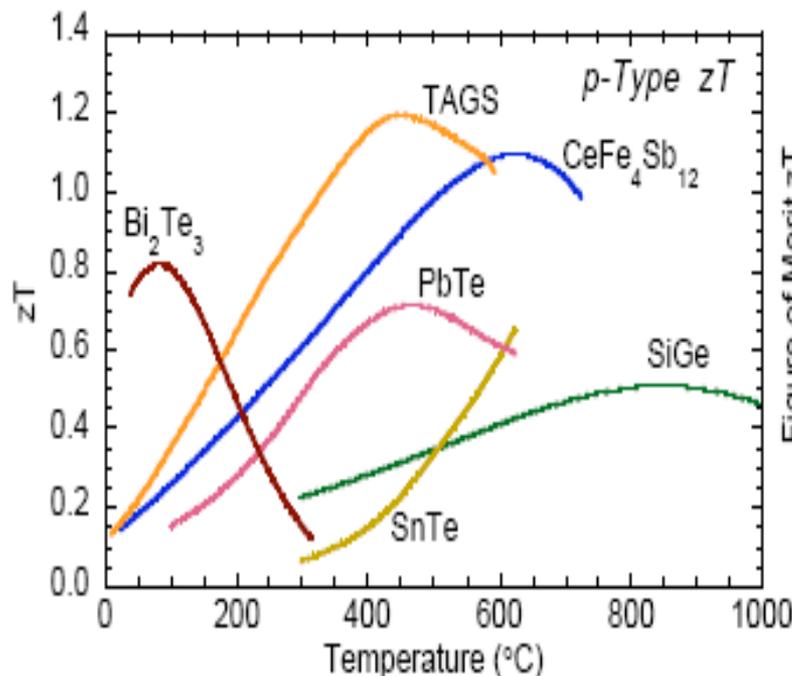


**Commercial TE Module**

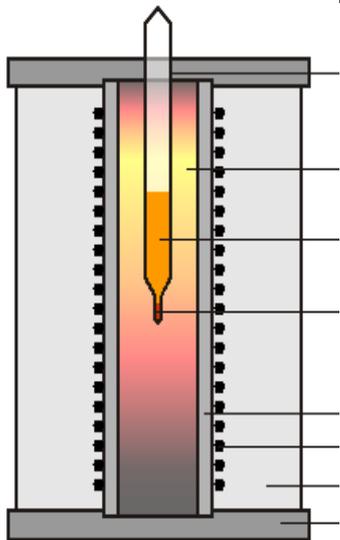
# CANDIDATE TE MATERIALS FOR HIGH TEMPERATURE OXYGEN BEARING ENVIRONMENTS



- EXCEPT FOR SiGe, THE BEST THERMOELECTRIC MATERIALS ARE NOT DURABLE TO OXYGEN AT HIGH TEMPERATURES. OXYGEN LIMITS MATERIAL SELECTION
- OXIDATION OCCURS BUT LIMITED IN VOLUME WITH A SURFACE SiO<sub>2</sub> LAYER
- DOPING OF Si-BASED AND OTHER MATERIALS TO OBTAIN OPTIMUM PERFORMANCE
- PEAK PERFORMANCE IS ALSO A FUNCTION OF TEMPERATURE
- OVER 50 MATERIALS INVESTIGATED
- OXIDES ARE VIABLE BUT STILL MATURING



# BULK THERMOELECTRICS: SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED MATERIAL PROPERTIES INCLUDING OXIDATION RESISTANCE



Melt → Solidification

